

7-15-1948

# Speech

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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*Clyde*  
*and Campaign speech*  
Script for July 15, 1948

7/15/48  
56  
\$30  
(This is Political Advertizing, bought and paid for by the FLATHEAD COUNTY NON\*  
PARTISAN COMMITTEE, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters of Joiners of America,  
FOR THE REPEAL AND DEFEAT OF ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION.) Your speaker--Clyde Cole.

Good Evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. It's just the same old labor program--  
but with a sponsor. For weeks and months, Al and I have been telling you folks  
that the 80th Congress was run according to the wishes of the National Association  
of Manufacturers--and Big Business in general. We've told you what we don't like  
about the Taft-Hartley Act, the Income Tax Reduction Bill, and various other measures.  
We've told you about the propaganda campaigns, of the NAM, and the wonderful effect  
they've had, in getting the OPA killed. As I see it, the NAM scored three major  
victories with the cooperation of the 80th Congress; OPA was killed--so the manu-  
facturers could charge all the traffic would bear; The Taft-Hartley Act was passed--  
so that organized labor wouldn't be able to demand a share of the enormous profits;  
and, finally, and Income-Tax Cut was passed--which enables the wealthy to become  
more wealthy, and forces the workers to become poorer--by giving a token tax cut,  
which is soon eaten up by the high prices.

Organized labor has always been interested in legislation which affects the  
workers as a group, however, until recently, the American Federation of Labor has  
confined its attention to legislation--and has paid little heed to the persons running  
for public office. That era came to an end with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act.  
Organized labor now recognizes, that legislation which will benefit the common people  
cannot be passed, if the workers continue to vote for the tools of Big Business--  
because they haven't been informed about the records of the candidates. All echelons  
of the American Federation of Labor have set up committees--to examine the records  
of candidates, and to inform the membership as to their findings. In Flathead County  
the various Local Unions of the Brotherhood of Carpenters have formed a committee,  
and that Committee is sponsoring this broadcast, tonite. These committees derive  
their financial support solely from the voluntary contributions of interested indi-  
viduals. No dues money is used by the various committees, and the various officers  
donate their services, free of charge.



This is the 56th week that this program has been on the air. During the first 55 programs we couldn't mention the fact that some people are Republicans, and that others are Democrats--but tonite is different. By virtue of the fact that money has been donated to the Flathead County Non-Partisan Committee, that body is able to pay for this time--and has paid for it so that I can talk to you folks and recommend to you several candidates, which I believe are worthy of the support of you and I, and all the Joe and Jane Does in this neighborhood.

To start off, I'd like to explain, that in previous elections, I've always<sup>primary</sup> picked the Republican ticket. When General Elections rolled around, I've deviated somewhat from the party line--but in the main, I've voted Republican. That has changed. Since I got out of the Army, and have interested myself in Union activities, I have been forced to the conclusion that organized labor has some good friends in the Democratic Party--and I'm here tonite to help those friends remain in Office. I'm speaking now of Senator Murray, and Congressman Mike Mansfield. Since Mike is unopposed in the primary on the Democratic ticket, I'm not worried much about him at this time. I would like to recommend that you folks vote Democratic, and vote for Mike, however. Mike's record shows that he has always had the interest of the common people close to his heart, and, if he is sent back to Washington, I am certain that he will keep up the good work. I'd like to remind you, that Mike had the courage to vote against an Income-Tax cut--and he had the courage to come before us--Last Labor Day--and reiterate his stand against that bill. I hope that none of us are short-sighted enough, to want that tax cut--when it would have given the higher brackets a much greater cut. As I said, I'm not worried about Mike in the Primary; however, there's another friend of the common people who may get his political throat cut, if we workers don't act--and act at the polls--to keep him in the running. That is Senator Murray. You folks will hear a lot about Senator Murray in the future--and some of it won't sound good. I've already heard some talk, which I would class as "red-smear", but don't you believe it. Senator Murray--although a wealthy man in his own right--has always stood up for the common man against the grasping tactics of the industrial interests. Senator Murray musn't be defeated for re-election.



That is the biggest job we workers have to do in the Primary election next Tuesday. The Committee which is sponsoring this broadcast is Non-Partisan--in name and in purpose. It is formed to support the friends of the working class--no matter what the party. It is only, because the re-election of Senator James E. Murray, is so important to the working people, that I say to you folks, "Vote the Democratic Ticket". "Vote for Senator Murray".

The American Federation of Labor, as a whole, is trying to defeat those who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act in particular; and it is trying to elect in their places, men who will work for the repeal of that cumbersome an unjust piece of legislation. We in Montana are fortunate. We don't want to remove Senator Murray or Congressman Mansfield from office; we just want to keep them there. Of course, if Senator Ecton were running for office this year, things would be different. Senator Ecton is one of those elected to office on the slogan of "Had Enough" and we of organized labor have had enough. When Senator Ecton was asked why he and Senator Murray never voted alike, he replied to the effect that it would be simple for them to get together. Inasmuch as Ecton voted before Murray, Senator Murray would need only watch the voting of Senator Ecton in order to vote right. Such effrontery! I believe that Senator Murray should know more of the Washington ropes than does one newly elected. I believe that Senator Ecton could better fulfill his obligation to his constituents, by following the lead of Senator Murray. When Senator Ecton said that, he sounded just as brash as did the action of Felix Dupont in the 1944 elections. The records show, that among the big Dewey contributors in 1944, were the Duponts, with \$109, 832.. This included a \$5,000 contribution from Felix Dupont--then aged 2--. Apparently he had considered the merits of the two parties, and then, having made his decision, broke open his piggy bank and contributed the maximum allowed under the law. For a child that isn't any where near old enough to <sup>throwing</sup> vote, that boy was certainly ~~throwing~~ his economic weight around.

Enough of that. I'm getting off the subject--which is "Vote Democratic in the Primary next Tuesday. Vote for Senator James Murray. And while you're voting that ticket, vote for Congressman Mike Mansfield." You won't be sorry in the years just ahead of us.



Now let's see? Who am I going to vote for, for the other offices? Since I'm going to vote the Democratic Ticket, Let's run down the list together, and talk them over. First come the candidates for Governor--and they number five. Two of them, John Bonner & Leif Erickson, have been endorsed by various groups of working people. It seems that these organizations couldn't choose between them--so they recommend either one. As for the other three--Judge Vernon Hoven, Art Lamey, and George Melton--I don't know of any labor groups which have endorsed any one of them. You'd be wise, if you're interested in government for the people, to follow the recommendations of these groups--vote for either Bonner or Erickson for Governor. For myself, I intend to vote for Bonner, although I have no particular reasons for my choice. Maybe its just because he came through the Planer at Somers, with a cheery word and a firm handclasp for everyone (some of our hands were dirty too). Mr. Bonner's alert manner impressed me very much, so I, personally, will vote for him. Don't forget, though, that Leif Erickson has proven his mettle by battling the J. Neils sustained yield monopoly program right down the line. Mr. Erickson made a lot of friends by protecting the future for the smaller logging outfits, and, if he wins, it won't hurt my feelings.

For Lt Governor I don't have any choice at all. I don't know any of the candidates, and I haven't talked with anyone who does. I have heard the name of Jack Toole mentioned favorably--but that's all I can say about any of them. For Sec of State I'll vote for Sam Mitchell, because I believe he's done a good job in the past; His opponent--Frank Murray--is also favorably recommended to me, to take your choice. For Attorney General I'm going to vote for Arnold Olsen, a progressive young attorney from Butte. I've talked to him at some length, and that boy has some good ideas about many things, and he hopes particularly to speed up the ~~maxxing~~ settling of claims for Industrial Accident Compensation. I hope he makes it. There is another good candidate for Attorney General--J. R. Wine, Jr.--I believe he is Mayor of Helena, and he carries a fine recommendation from the Central Trades and Labor Council of that city. For Railroad and Pub Serv Commission, E. J. (Ernie) Beckett is recommended by labor groups. I know nothing about any of the candidates, so I'll leave it at that.



Now let's get down to some offices where laboring people should be particularly concerned. Let's look at the candidates for State Legislature. This is a very important body, things being in the fix they are. Some of you people may know that the Taft-Hartley Act contained a provision which gives the green light to the various states, in the matter of anti-labor legislation. The Taft-Hartley Act specifically provides, that in any state which has a law more restrictive of Union Shop Contracts than the Taft-Hartley Act--then the State Law shall govern. If Montana law were to forbid a Union Shop, then we couldn't have one--even if we did comply with all the time-and-money-consuming red-tape of the Taft-Hartley Act. It's up to the workers of this state to see to it that they don't elect state legislators who will contribute to their downfall. At present Flathead County is richly endowed with anti-labor legislators. They are Clifford E. Haines, E. B. Foot, and Ory J. Armstrong--all Republicans. That's another reason I ask you to vote Democratic. I'll qualify the preceding statement: They aren't all anti-labor. According to the State Federation of Labor, Ory J. Armstrong has been on our side on several occasions. If you disregard my advice, and vote the Republican ticket, then please vote for Mr. Armstrong. If you will believe me though, and vote as I suggest, then you will vote Democratic and vote for these three candidates for State Legislature: Ernest Burns (RR worker from Whitefish), Lawrence Sonstelie (Farmers Union man from out by Creston), and George Siderius (a Farmers' Union man who lives just across the Highway from the KGEZ transmitter). I recommend these three for your consideration. I feel that, <sup>represent</sup> if they are elected to go to Helena, they will ~~represent~~ the ideas and wishes of the laboring people of Flathead County. I might say, too, that those Farmers' Union people have some very specific ideas as to what should be done about the schools and taxes in the State of Montana. I'd like to see some of those ideas given a chance.

Time is growing short, so I won't attempt to cover the other candidates for office. I will mention just one more--the Democratic candidate for County Commissioner--Charlie Luke, Sr. of Half-Moon. I know Charlie quite well. I've opposed him, more than once, in matters pertaining to our Central Trades and Labor Council. I believe that Charlie is, whole-heartedly, for the working man--and he isn't bashful about



telling anyone what he thinks. Charlie has been endorsed by several labor groups in the valley, and, at this time, I wish to add my personal endorsement for Charlie Luke as County Commissioner on the Democratic Ticket.

Now, Quickly before the announcer cuts me off, I'll review briefly. It is considered imperative that James Murray be re-elected as Senator. To do that, the Flathead County Non-Partisan Committee of the Brotherhood of Carpenters asks you to vote Democratic. Vote for this man, who stands for everything which will benefit the common folks--such as you and I. For Congressman we give an unqualified endorsement to Mike Mansfield. And don't pass up those State Legislators. On the Democratic Ticket I recommend Ernie Burns, Lawrence Sonstelie, and George Siderius. If you still wish to vote the Republican Ticket, the only one I can recommend is Ory J. Armstrong.

This voting advice comes from me, and it also comes from the committees which have been set up by the various echelons of organized labor. These committees are not pledged to any party--they are pledged to support the individual candidates who are judged to be most labor-minded. These committees are not supported by donations from industrialists--they are supported by individual donations, ranging from 50¢ to several dollars, from union members and sympathizers. If you would like to put some spare change to work, check with the office of Bob Weller in Carpenters' Hall. He'll see that your money is well spent to benefit all the citizens of this county and State.

This program will be back on the air again next Thursday evening at 9:15. At that time it will revert to its amateur status, and will keep away from politics. We can't afford much of this. Goodnite.